

## **Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

Friday, January 29, 1999  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Maui Sanctuary Site  
726 S. Kihei Road  
Kihei, HI 96753

### ***Meeting Minutes***

#### **Attendance**

*SAC Members Present:* Hannah Bernard, James Coon, Emily Gardner, Beth Goodwin, Walter Haas, Greg Kaufman, William Lennan, June Harrigan-Lum, Craig MacDonald, Patty Miller, Richard Poirier, Robert Schroeder, Glenn Soma, Mike Stanton, Claud Sutcliffe, Michael Tosatto, Terry White.

*SAC Alternates Present:* Paul Achitoff, Ron Bass, Kim Beasley, Carl Berg, Cliff Libed.

*Excused:* Herman Chong, William Friedl, Louis Herman, Colette Machado, Charles Maxwell, Paul Nachtigall, Gene Nitta.

#### *Others Present:*

NOAA: Kellie Araki, Angela Calos, Margo Jackson, Naomi McIntosh, Brady Phillips, Stephanie Thornton, Allen Tom.  
Public: Robin Baird, Sascha Hooker, Melissa Ihori.

#### **Distributed Materials**

- DOC News Release on the Lands Legacy Initiative
- Guide to Diving: America's National Marine Sanctuaries pamphlet
- Draft Survey for a Hawaii Whale Watch Economics Study conducted by Dan Utech
- SAC Education Workshop Responses
- Draft SAC letter to Tim Johns, DLNR Director

#### **Welcoming Remarks**

SAC Chairman James Coon called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the prior meeting's final minutes. Minutes were approved as distributed. Sanctuary Manager Allen Tom announced that the selection process to fill the Fishing and Ocean Recreation seats on the SAC are underway. SAC member votes were tabulated and forwarded to Jeff Benoit, Director of the Ocean and Coastal Resources Management office in Washington, DC. The final selection results should be announced by March, with new members in attendance at the next meeting.

Mr. Coon asked whether the SAC would prefer to hold officer elections immediately or postpone them until the next meeting in March. Mr. Tom also noted that several SAC members were absent from this meeting. A motion was made to defer elections. The

motion was carried and elections will be held in March. The SAC also requested that they receive more information on those individuals interested in running for office prior to the next SAC meeting. Mr. Tom asked that members running for office send him a paragraph on their qualifications for the seat by February 19, 1999. These paragraphs will then be distributed to the rest of the SAC for review.

### **Overview of the National Marine Sanctuary Program**

Stephanie Thornton, Chief of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, welcomed the group and provided an overview of the program's activities being conducted at the national level. Ms. Thornton stated that the managers of the twelve National Marine Sanctuaries have been meeting for the past week on Maui and have covered a wide range of topics. According to Ms. Thornton, the program has been working at the national level to create an integrated system of marine protected areas. This includes developing new sites and looking at how the Sanctuary program can position itself in a global family of marine protected areas. In this capacity, Ms. Thornton noted that Nancy Foster, Director of the National Ocean Service, accepted the vice presidency position in the International Union for the Protection of Nature (IUCN). Through the IUCN, Dr. Foster will help lead the National Marine Sanctuary program into more international activities. Several working groups will also be formed, and Ms. Thornton's involvement in this will mean more resources and opportunities for the Sanctuary program to be a player in the global environment.

Ms. Thornton also addressed the recent announcement made by President Clinton that the National Marine Sanctuary Program will receive a \$15 million budget increase. Despite this promising announcement, Ms. Thornton stressed the need to gather more congressional and constituent support for the program at the national level. Thus, the program is currently working to develop an internal set of policies that will help clarify and define its resource conservation message. The program will also need to clarify what it stands for, its partnerships with other agencies, and the issues regarding program reauthorization. Because the Sanctuary program's national framework is being considered for Congressional reauthorization, it needs to work internally to develop appropriate language prior to its release to the public. Ms. Thornton stressed the need to have SAC involvement in this process. In sum, she indicated 5 main objectives: build the national system, establish a niche in the global arena, obtain a budget increase, develop a national constituency, and garner reauthorization support.

Ms. Thornton also announced several other activities that the Sanctuary program is involved in. The Coral Reef Initiative will be holding its second meeting in Hawaii on March 5 - 6, 1999. The Sustainable Seas Expedition project with Dr. Sylvia Earle and National Geographic will be visiting each of the Sanctuary sites, including Hawaii. Lastly, another Sanctuary initiative is to develop visitor centers at all sanctuaries, done independently or in partnership with other agencies. A single national visitor center is also being developed and will be located in either San Francisco or Washington, DC. This project will represent all sanctuaries and will provide visibility and recognition for the entire program.

Questions were raised regarding the National Marine Sanctuary Program's future budget. Although the money is not guaranteed at this time, Ms. Thornton stated that the total projected budget for the next fiscal year would be \$29M, with \$3M going to capital costs for the overall program. Ms. Thornton also cautioned that the additional monies to the National Marine Sanctuary program, should it materialize, does not automatically translate into a larger budget for the Hawaii Sanctuary Program. No other new sanctuaries are under consideration at the moment and the agenda is to expand on and improve the existing

system, however, a possible Presidential mandate may demand a new National Marine Sanctuary in the future.

### **Education Working Group Report**

Mr. Tom noted that SAC members are encouraged to organize town meetings within their constituencies and island groups. Although there is no set protocol for this, interested members are free to conduct meetings and can receive assistance from the Sanctuary program. Mr. Tom recognized that Patty Miller, SAC education chair, has been organizing education workshops to determine existing marine education efforts and future education needs. Once the findings are finalized they will be prioritized by the SAC and released for funding proposal requests. Mr. Tom anticipates that this process will be completed by the summer of 1999.

Ms. Miller presented an overview of the education workshop process, noting that she conducted meetings on Hawaii (Kona), Oahu, Kauai and Maui. Workshop participants identified current activities and efforts that they were aware of on their island and produced a “wish list” of activities and funding opportunities. Ms. Miller discovered that similar ideas and requests were identified on each island. The following is a summary of findings:

1. Sanctuary promotion (signage, media spots, lecture speakers, etc.)  
- *Ms. Miller stated that Meadow Gold will soon be putting whale facts and Sanctuary information on their milk cartons.*
2. School curriculum (consolidate existing curriculum & promote teacher training to use it)
3. Interpretive signs and spotting scopes
4. Naturalist training (with Sanctuary certification)
5. Sanctuary Bus
6. Professional video (could be used by any organization that requested it)
7. Hotel speaker programs
8. General community education
9. College-level mentoring program (partners college students with researchers)
10. Sanctuary logo (something that is easily identifiable to the community)
11. Airport displays
12. Distribute information on airline flights
13. Speakers group
14. Wider distribution of Sanctuary brochures
15. Sanctuary awareness education for commercial boat operators
16. Sanctuary awareness education for recreational boat operators
17. High school / researcher mentoring program
18. Hotel staff training
19. Traveling Sanctuary display
20. Establish a Sanctuary office in Kona
21. Fund University of Hawaii instructors to teach in Kona
22. Support for Oceans for Hawaii program
23. Hold regular Sanctuary meetings in Kona
22. Establish a “Whale Ambassador” at Kaena Point
23. Create a Marine Park Education Center in Kona
24. Develop an interpretive Sanctuary site in Kona
25. Sanctuary IQ contest
26. Increase the Sanctuary lecture series
27. Support for Maui Community College program
28. Support for Pacific Whale Foundation’s Marine Education Center
29. Support for all environmental groups
30. Create more opportunities for high school field trips
31. Increase access for kama’aina whale watching
32. Sanctuary Hotline
33. Develop a connection with other marine sanctuaries that have whales

#### 34. Cultural aspect

Based on this list, the SAC expressed the importance of learning from past experiences, expanding efforts across the state, and obtaining the proper community input to ensure that projects are viable. Also important is the need to make sure that the prioritized projects are sufficiently carried through. One way to ensure that is to require all request for proposals (RFP) to reflect the party's ability to follow through and meet its stated goals.

Some concerns were also raised regarding the fact that each island had different priorities and some communities had resources that others did not. Thus, the SAC questioned which projects would get first priority - developing new statewide projects or addressing education deficiencies on an island-by-island basis. Mr. Tom recommended that this would be a decision left to the Education Working Group. He announced that Ms. Miller would be responsible for scheduling a meeting to be held in February with results tallied by the next SAC meeting. Ms. Miller asked that other SAC members do their part to get their constituencies involved in this process.

*Note: The Education Working Group meeting was held on Friday, February 26, 1999 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Honolulu Airport Interisland Terminal. All SAC members and alternates were invited to attend.*

#### **State of Hawaii Activity Update**

Emily Gardner, interim Sanctuary Co-Manager for the State of Hawaii provided an update on the State's latest activities with the Sanctuary. She announced that Tim Johns is now the new Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, replacing former Director, Michael Wilson.

Ms. Gardner identified a number of projects that she has been working on, including creating high school and intermediate-level curriculum on whales and other protected species, developing signs for Makapu'u Point on Oahu (a view scope is currently on order), releasing a television PSA on federal whale approach regulations (aired last year and will air again this year with Sanctuary funding), developing a new Sanctuary site brochure (in conjunction with NOAA), designing a color poster on marine mammals, working with the Department of Health's Clean Water Branch to develop a water monitoring program for South Maui (the State will hire a consultant to identify problem sedimentation areas and monitor impacts through the volunteer water monitoring program) and redistributing the Island Stewardship Guide.

In addressing some SAC concerns, Ms. Gardner reiterated that the State is working to minimize the duplication of education efforts and will not develop anything that the SAC has objections to. NOAA and Allen Tom has the approval over the State's budget and expenditures on Sanctuary related activities.

Members of the SAC expressed extreme disappointment in the fact that they have not had any input into the development of the State's activities to date and education projects have been undertaken without consideration from the Education Working Group. It was suggested that in the future the State work with the SAC to develop projects and review proposals from the start rather than hear the SAC's concerns after the fact. Furthermore, the SAC requested that they receive more information on the State's Co-Manager position, the State's role in the Sanctuary partnership, and the State's position in this matter (which includes not only DLNR, but DOH, DBEDT, and other agencies). More specifically, the SAC requested that the State release a vision statement on its partnership with the Sanctuary

program as well as a discussion of how DLNR will coordinate with other State agencies. Brady Phillips of the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division stated that he will forward a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Hawaii and the Sanctuary program to the SAC. In closing this discussion, Mr. Tom stated that he and Ms. Gardner will consult with other State agencies and work on a presentation for the next meeting to address the SAC's concerns.

In a closing statement, SAC Secretary Hannah Bernard announced that she drafted a letter on behalf of the SAC requesting that Mr. Tom be put on the State's committee to select a Sanctuary Co-Manager. Ms. Bernard distributed copies of the letter to SAC members and asked that any comments be forwarded to her.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 11, 1999 at 10 a.m.**, on the 7th floor of the Honolulu Interisland Terminal.